

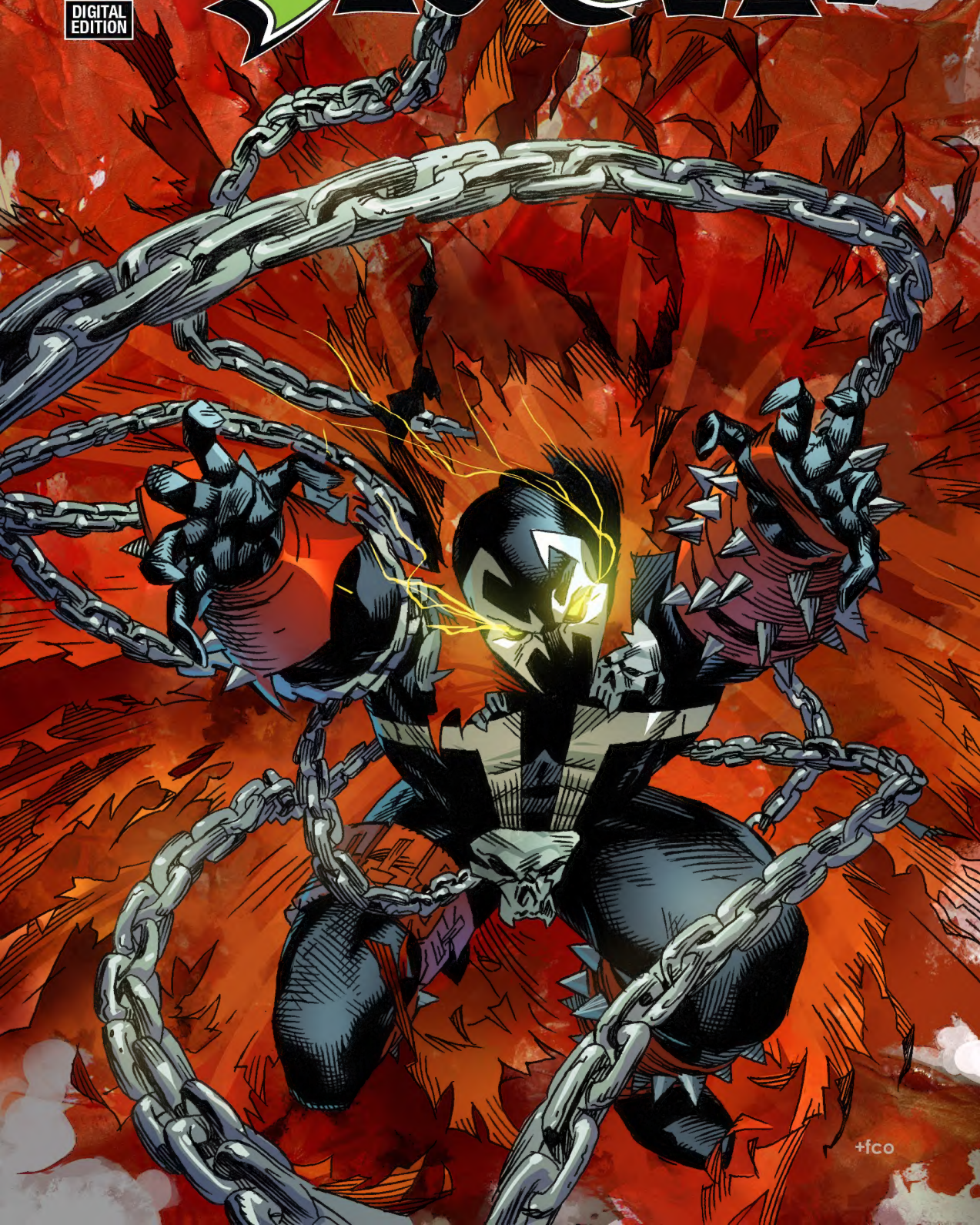


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213

DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN







#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Following their violent confrontation, Clown lays out the awful truth of his existence and the full history of the Hellspawn for Jim.

With a better understanding of the dangers he faces, Jim sets out to change the world.

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**TODD McFARLANE**

Additional Plot

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**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS

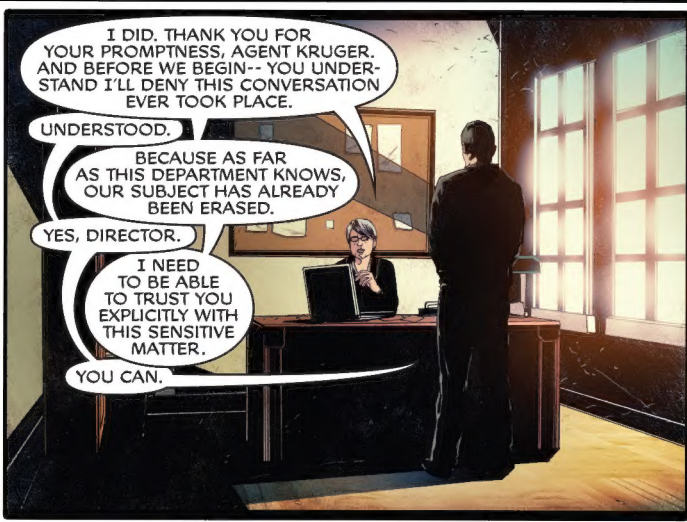
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YOU  
ASKED TO  
SEE ME,  
DIRECTOR  
KURTZ?



GOOD.

SO HERE'S  
WHAT WE'RE UP  
AGAINST. A SITUATION  
HAS COME UP-- ONE  
THAT COULD QUICKLY  
TURN INTO A HUGE  
PROBLEM. YOUR  
SPECIAL TALENTS  
ARE REQUIRED.



DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
THIS IS,  
KRUGER?



YES, MA'AM.  
I'VE ALREADY BEEN  
FULLY BRIEFED ON  
THE "DOWNING"  
OPERATION.

NOT ALL OF IT. YOU  
SEE, TWO DAYS AGO, A  
MR. MARC ROSEN--

DOWNING'S  
PERSONAL  
MANAGER.

YES, DOWNING'S  
MANAGER. HE'S A FAILED  
REPORTER WITH MORE THAN A  
FEW MEDIA CONTACTS IN HIS BACK  
POCKET. TWO DAYS AGO, MR. ROSEN  
SENT THIS PHOTO-- A PHOTO NOBODY,  
MYSELF INCLUDED, SHOULD'VE EVEN  
KNOWN EXISTED, MUCH LESS  
HAD ACCESS TO. HE SENT IT TO A  
SELECT GROUP OF INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTERS ACROSS THE  
COUNTRY.

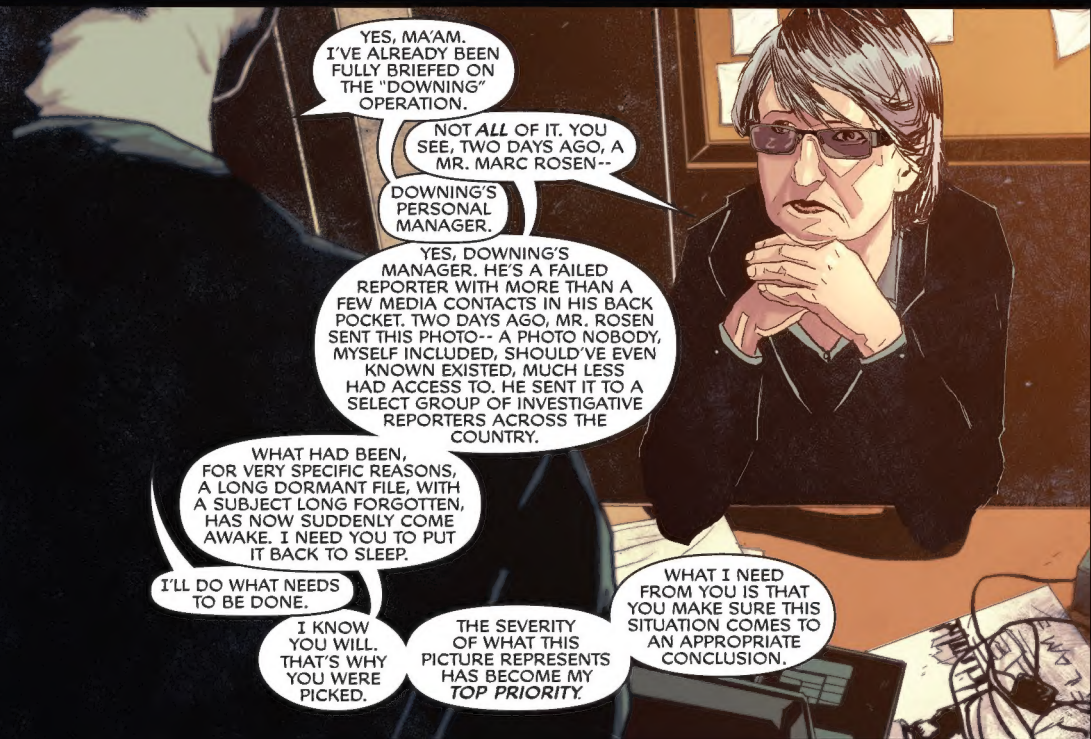
WHAT HAD BEEN,  
FOR VERY SPECIFIC REASONS,  
A LONG DORMANT FILE, WITH  
A SUBJECT LONG FORGOTTEN,  
HAS NOW SUDDENLY COME  
AWAKE. I NEED YOU TO PUT  
IT BACK TO SLEEP.

I'LL DO WHAT NEEDS  
TO BE DONE.

I KNOW  
YOU WILL.  
THAT'S WHY  
YOU WERE  
PICKED.

THE SEVERITY  
OF WHAT THIS  
PICTURE REPRESENTS  
HAS BECOME MY  
TOP PRIORITY.

WHAT I NEED  
FROM YOU IS THAT  
YOU MAKE SURE THIS  
SITUATION COMES TO  
AN APPROPRIATE  
CONCLUSION.







Eleven days ago.

CLEVELAND,  
OHIO.



Nine days ago.

CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS.



Five days ago.

HOUSTON,  
TEXAS.



Two days ago.

LOS ANGELES,  
CALIFORNIA.



Today.

BALTIMORE,  
MARYLAND.



C'MON, STOP WIGGLING. I NEED TO GET THIS TIE STRAIGHT.

IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D SWEAR YOU WERE NERVOUS... THOUGH I *CAN'T* IMAGINE WHY!

CUT THE SARCASM. YOU'VE MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR YOU THINK I'M CRAZY FOR DOING THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT I CAN'T GO ON LIVING THE WAY I AM.

I KNOW. I'M JUST GIVING YOU A HARD TIME. DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT YOUR BACK ON THIS. WE'LL MAKE IT WORK-- ONCE WE FIND THE FUNDING-- BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S YOUR LIFE, AND THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S BEEN PUTTING UP WITH ALL THIS CRAP, NOT ME.

SO I'M COMPLETELY ON YOUR SIDE.

THANKS. I APPRECIATE YOU SAYING THAT. REALLY.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M GOING TO STAY BACK HERE WHILE YOU DO YOUR THING. I DON'T WANT THERE TO BE ANY DISTRACTIONS TO WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ACROSS. BESIDES, I'M ADDICTED TO MY PHONE AND CAN'T LEAVE IT ALONE FOR TWO SECONDS, AND I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.

THAT'S FINE. DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO. I'LL SEE YOU WHEN IT'S ALL OVER.

COOL! AND NOT THAT I'M A WORRY-WART OR ANYTHING, BUT I TOLD SUSAN NOT TO LET YOU OUT OF HER SIGHT. RIGHT, SUSAN?

AYE-AYE, CAPTAIN.

CUTE.

YOU CAN DO THIS, JIM. GOOD LUCK TO YOU.





I'M GOING TO DOUBLE-CHECK TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS SET UP PROPERLY. WE'VE GOT TEN MINUTES 'TIL **SHOWTIME!** I'LL DO A QUICK INTRO, THEN YOU CAN COME OUT.



DOES HIS NEUROTIC, PERFECTIONIST BEHAVIOR EVER GET YOU?

EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY.



I'M PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING, JIM. I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE MADE THAT CLEAR WITH ALL THE INSANITY SWIRLING AROUND. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEND ALL THE TIME I'D LIKE WITH YOU.

MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE LATER WHEN MARC'S OFF DOING HIS THING, WE COULD GET TOGETHER...?



LOOK, I'M REALLY FLATTERED BY ALL YOUR ATTENTION. IT'S HELPED MY EGO IMMENSELY, BUT WE CAN'T DO THIS. IT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU AND IT'S NOT FAIR TO MARC. IT'D BREAK HIS HEART IF HE KNEW WHAT WE DID.

I... GUESS.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?



NO. YOU'RE A WONDERFUL, VIBRANT, SEXY WOMAN, BUT WE MADE A MISTAKE. WE OWE IT TO EVERYONE NOT TO DO THAT AGAIN. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU NEED TO FOCUS NOW. I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE.





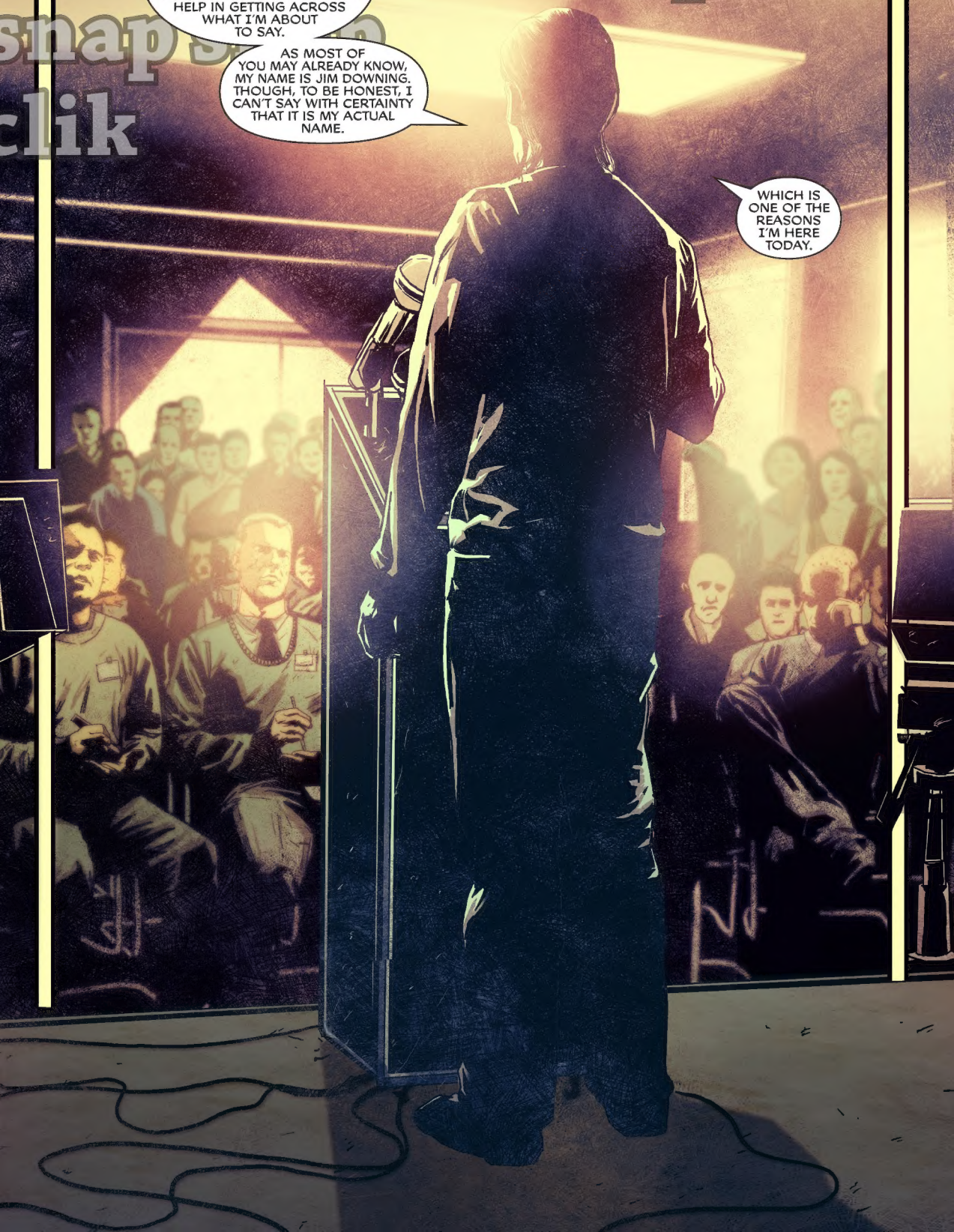


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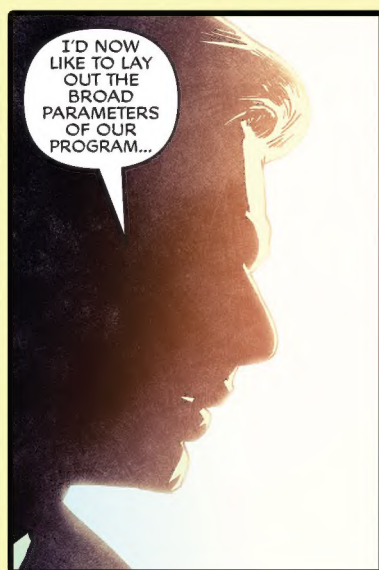
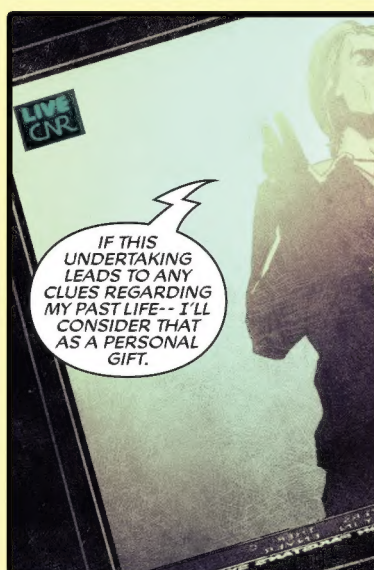
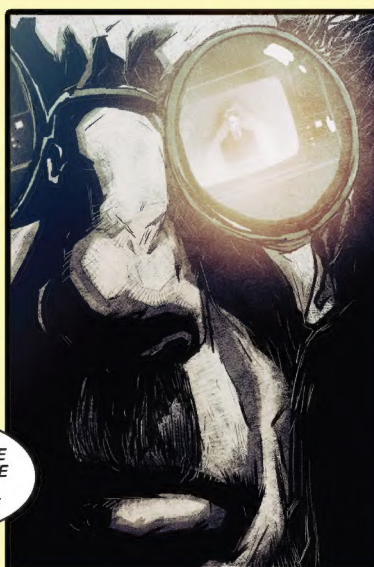
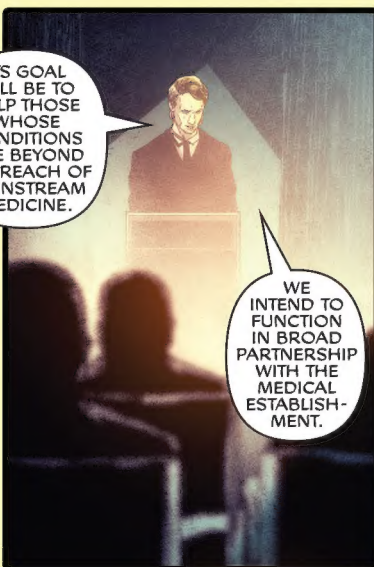
GOOD  
AFTERNOON, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN. I'D LIKE  
TO START BY THANKING EACH  
OF YOU FOR BEING HERE. I'M  
SURE ALL OF YOU ARE QUITE  
BUSY, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR  
HELP IN GETTING ACROSS  
WHAT I'M ABOUT  
TO SAY.

AS MOST OF  
YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW,  
MY NAME IS JIM DOWNING.  
THOUGH, TO BE HONEST, I  
CAN'T SAY WITH CERTAINTY  
THAT IT IS MY ACTUAL  
NAME.

WHICH IS  
ONE OF THE  
REASONS  
I'M HERE  
TODAY.







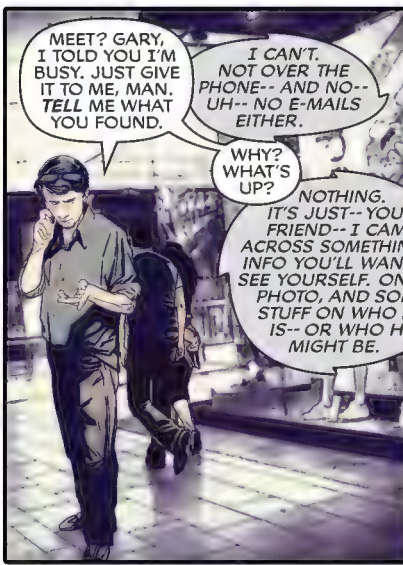








WE NEED  
TO MEET. IN  
PERSON.



MEET? GARY,  
I TOLD YOU I'M  
BUSY. JUST GIVE  
IT TO ME, MAN.  
TELL ME WHAT  
YOU FOUND.

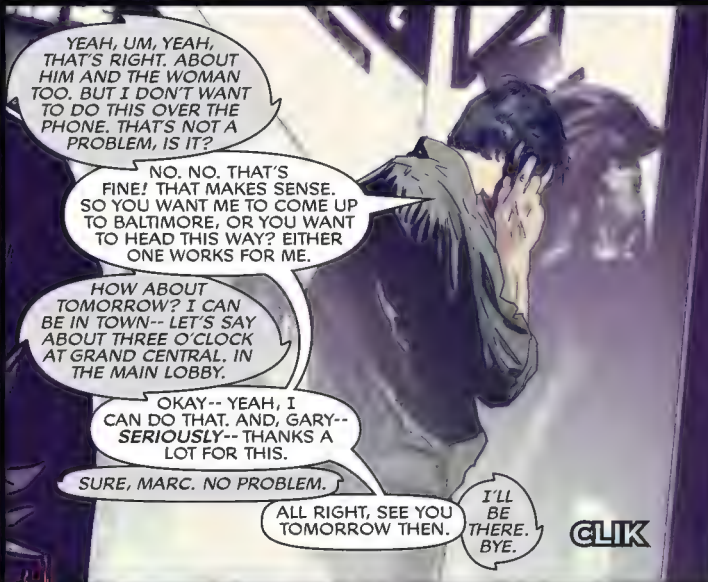
I CAN'T.  
NOT OVER THE  
PHONE-- AND NO--  
UH-- NO E-MAILS  
EITHER.

WHY?  
WHAT'S  
UP?

NOTHING.  
IT'S JUST-- YOUR  
FRIEND-- I CAME  
ACROSS SOMETHING--  
INFO YOU'LL WANT TO  
SEE YOURSELF. ON THE  
PHOTO, AND SOME  
STUFF ON WHO HE  
IS-- OR WHO HE  
MIGHT BE.



YOU  
SERIOUS?  
YOU FOUND SOME-  
THING ON JIM?  
SOMETHING  
PRE-COMA?



YEAH, UM, YEAH,  
THAT'S RIGHT. ABOUT  
HIM AND THE WOMAN  
TOO. BUT I DON'T WANT  
TO DO THIS OVER THE  
PHONE. THAT'S NOT A  
PROBLEM, IS IT?

NO, NO. THAT'S  
FINE! THAT MAKES SENSE.  
SO YOU WANT ME TO COME UP  
TO BALTIMORE, OR YOU WANT  
TO HEAD THIS WAY? EITHER  
ONE WORKS FOR ME.

HOW ABOUT  
TOMORROW? I CAN  
BE IN TOWN-- LET'S SAY  
ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK  
AT GRAND CENTRAL. IN  
THE MAIN LOBBY.

OKAY-- YEAH, I  
CAN DO THAT. AND, GARY--  
SERIOUSLY-- THANKS A  
LOT FOR THIS.

SURE, MARC. NO PROBLEM.

ALL RIGHT, SEE YOU  
TOMORROW THEN.

I'LL  
BE  
THERE.  
BYE.

CLIK



I... I DID  
WHAT YOU ASKED.  
NOW, PLEASE--  
I'VE TOLD YOU I  
DON'T KNOW  
ANYTHING.



BLAM



MA'AM?  
THE FINAL  
TARGET HAS BEEN  
ELIMINATED. ALL  
FILES HAVE BEEN  
WIPED. AND THE  
MEETING HAS BEEN  
SET. INITIATING  
OPERATION:  
JUDAS ON YOUR  
GO-AHEAD.

PROCEED,  
AGENT  
KRUGER.





...NOT BE  
TAKING QUESTIONS,  
BUT WILL FOLLOW UP  
WITH A PRESS RELEASE THAT  
WILL PROVIDE A FULL SET  
OF DETAILS.



THANK  
YOU  
FOR YOUR  
TIME.



JIM?

MR.  
DOWNING?

MR.  
DOWNING,  
PLEASE?

JIM?

MR.  
DOWNING?



WOW! THAT  
WAS IMPRESSIVE! YOU  
HAD 'EM EATING OUT OF  
THE PALM OF YOUR HAND  
THE WHOLE TIME. EVEN  
SAW A FEW FEMALE  
REPORTERS CHECKING  
YOU OUT.

HONESTLY,  
NO JOKING  
AROUND--  
I WAS  
OKAY?



OH,  
PLEASE--  
YOU'RE A  
NATURAL UP  
THERE. IT'S LIKE  
YOU CAST A SPELL  
OVER THEM  
OR SOME-  
THING.

THANKS.  
I WAS A BIT  
NERVOUS, BUT I  
REALLY APPRECIATE  
THE SUPPORT YOU,  
MARC AND SARA  
HAVE--



SPEAKING  
OF WHICH...  
WHERE IS SHE?  
I KIND OF  
FIGURED SARA  
WOULD'VE BEEN  
HERE TODAY.

SHE'S  
PRETTY BUSY,  
UPSTATE. I  
HAVEN'T TALKED  
TO HER  
SINCE LAST  
WEEK.



A week earlier.



DID YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

I SAID  
I WANT  
TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.  
I WANT TO  
USE MY  
POWERS  
FOR SOME-  
THING  
GOOD.

SARA...?

WHAT'S  
WRONG?

YOUR POWERS.  
HOW CAN YOU  
CONTROL SOMETHING  
WHEN YOU DON'T  
EVEN KNOW HOW IT  
WORKS? NOT THE  
GOOD STUFF. NOT THE  
SAVING PEOPLE'S  
LIVES STUFF.

THE DARK  
PART. THE  
THING YOU  
TOOK ME INTO.  
WHERE'S  
THAT COME  
FROM?

IF YOU'RE  
ASKING HOW  
IT ALL WORKS--  
YOU'RE RIGHT,  
I DON'T KNOW.  
NOT EVERYTHING.  
BUT I CAN'T  
LET THAT STOP  
ME.



I'M NOT WILLING  
TO WAIT AROUND  
WHILE EVERYONE TRIES TO  
CHASE US DOWN-- TRYING  
TO FIGURE OUT WHAT  
THE HELL I AM.

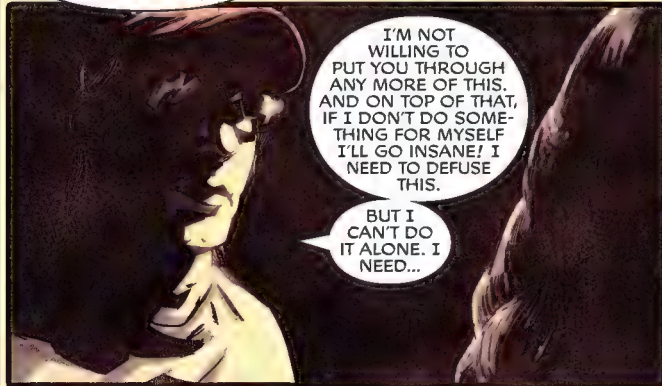


WHY?





WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHY? BECAUSE IF I DON'T, THEY WON'T REST UNTIL THEY GET THEIR STORY!



I'M NOT WILLING TO PUT YOU THROUGH ANY MORE OF THIS. AND ON TOP OF THAT, IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING FOR MYSELF I'LL GO INSANE! I NEED TO DEFUSE THIS.

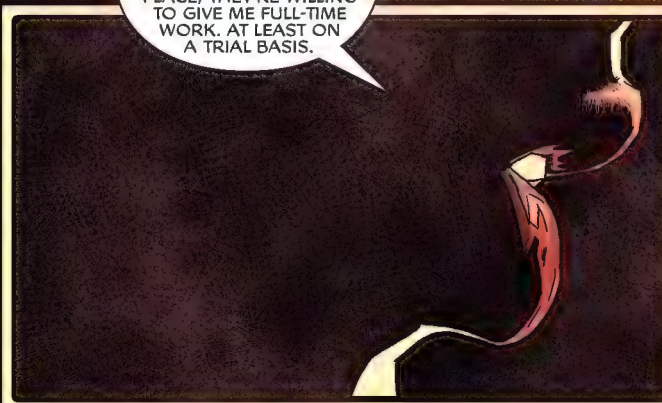
BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE. I NEED...



I'M LEAVING.

WHAT? WHY?

THERE'S A JOB-- IT'S OUT OF TOWN. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND STEADY WORK SINCE THE HOSPITAL BURNED DOWN AND THIS PLACE, THEY'RE WILLING TO GIVE ME FULL-TIME WORK, AT LEAST ON A TRIAL BASIS.



WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?

WHEN IT'S TIME. GOD WILL LET ME KNOW.

THIS IS BECAUSE OF ME, ISN'T IT? AND WHAT I DID TO YOU?

NO. YES. I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR COMA, I DREAMED ABOUT YOU EVERY NIGHT. I PRAYED TO GOD THAT HE WOULD WATCH OVER YOU AND DELIVER YOU BACK TO US, BECAUSE IN MY HEART I KNEW YOU WERE SPECIAL. THAT YOU WEREN'T LIKE THE REST. BUT-- AND I HATE MYSELF FOR SAYING THIS-- THERE'S SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT ABOUT ALL OF THIS.

WHAT YOU DID THE OTHER NIGHT... TAKING US FROM THE ALLEYS' BACK TO HERE?? WHAT YOU DID... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF THAT'S A GOOD OR BAD THING.

HOW DOES ALL THIS WORK? YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE. IT JUST DOES. I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU. NOT SCARE YOU.



BUT YOU DID.



I KNOW.  
AND I'LL HAVE  
TO LIVE WITH MYSELF,  
KNOWING HOW MUCH  
PAIN I'M PUTTING YOU  
THROUGH. BUT IF IT  
MAKES YOU FEEL ANY  
BETTER-- SOME OF THE  
STUFF I CAN DO  
SCARES THE CRAP OUT  
OF ME, TOO. TO THE  
POINT WHERE I  
CAN'T SLEEP AT  
NIGHT.

AND IF I  
DON'T DO SOME-  
THING ABOUT IT,  
I DON'T KNOW HOW  
MUCH MORE I'M  
GOING TO BE ABLE TO  
TAKE. YOU'VE TOLD  
ME THAT YOU THINK  
OF YOURSELF AS AN  
OUTSIDER. WELL, I  
AM TOO. BECAUSE I  
UNDERSTAND HOW  
LONELY THAT  
CAN BE.



SO,  
PLEASE...  
I NEED  
YOU.







SO YOU F\*CKED  
HER TOO, THEN?\*

WHAT?!

SARA'S NOT  
TALKING TO YOU, SO  
I'M GUESSING YOU DID THE  
'PUMP AND DUMP' WITH  
HER TOO. SEEMS TO BE  
YOUR M.O.

BUT  
THAT'S FINE.  
I'M NOT  
JEALOUS. WE  
CAN SHARE  
YOU.

\*Issue 202--Todd



SHARE?

LOOK,  
SUSAN, I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON IN YOUR  
HEAD, BUT YOU  
AND I ARE  
OVER. WHAT  
WE--



JIM? OH  
MY GOD, MAN--  
THAT WAS-- YOU  
NAILED IT!

WHERE'D  
YOU RUN  
OFF TO?

FIRST-- I DIDN'T  
RUN OFF. I'M ALREADY  
GETTING PRESS HITS FOR  
INTERVIEWS AND EXCLUSIVES.  
THAT'S WHAT THAT CALL WAS.  
I STEPPED OUT BEFORE  
MY PHONE STARTED  
BLOWING UP.



SECOND--  
I'M NOT SURE  
IF ANY OF US  
KNOWS HOW CRAZY  
THINGS ARE GOING  
TO GET FROM HERE  
ON OUT. MY BIGGEST  
CONCERN IS, I STILL  
DON'T KNOW HOW  
WE'RE GOING TO  
PULL THIS OFF.  
THE MONEY  
ALONE--



I'VE GOT  
IT COVERED,  
MARC.



SO YOU'VE  
SAID AND I BELIEVE  
YOU, BUT-- ARE WE  
GOING TO OPEN UP AN  
ACCOUNT AND ACCEPT  
DONATIONS? BECAUSE  
WITH YOUR ABILITIES,  
THE CASH WILL  
COME ROLLING  
IN, BUT--



I ALREADY  
TOLD YOU-- NO  
CHARITABLE  
DONATIONS-- NOT  
UNTIL WE'RE  
ESTABLISHED.

ARE YOU TELLING  
ME YOU WANT TO DO THIS  
WITHOUT CASH? WAKE UP!  
BECAUSE IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN  
THAT FOUNDATION YOU JUST  
ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD?  
IT CAN'T EXIST!

I'VE GOT IT  
COVERED.

YEAH-- ALL  
RIGHT. THOUGH  
AT ANY POINT ARE YOU  
PLANNING ON FILLING ME  
IN ON JUST HOW THIS  
IS GOING TO COME  
TOGETHER?

EVENTUALLY.  
FOR NOW-- YOU  
HANDLE THE  
PRESS AND TAKE  
YOUR PHONE  
CALLS.

I'LL TAKE  
CARE OF THE  
BUSINESS.

WHAT  
THE HELL  
DOES THAT  
MEAN?

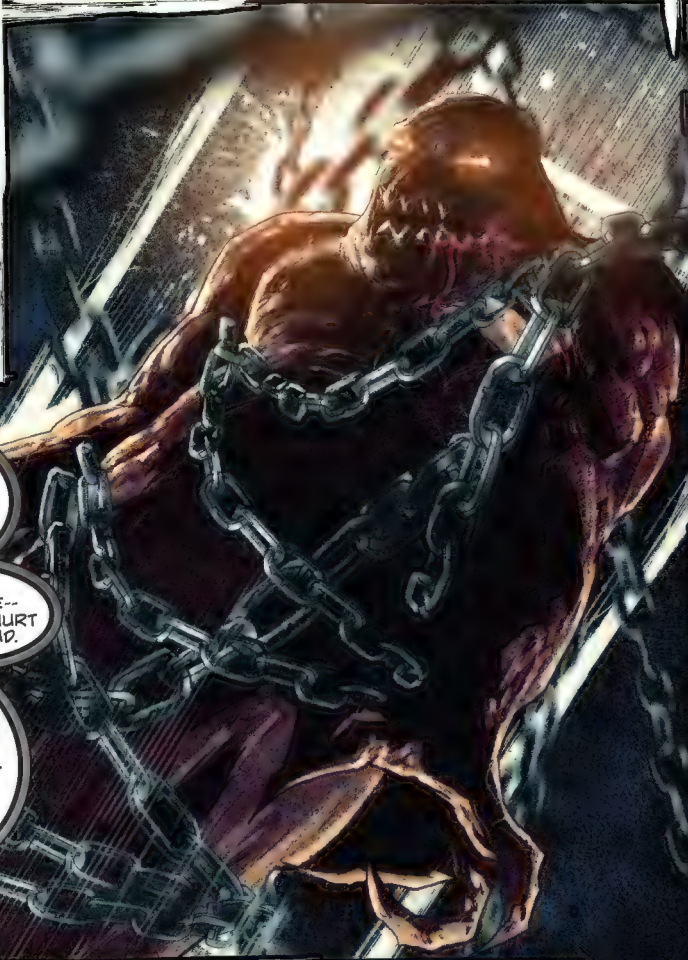
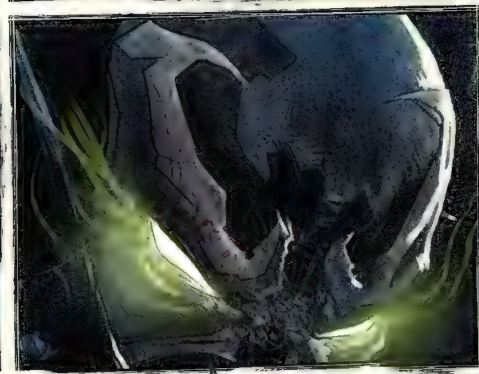








YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
THAT NEEDS TO  
BE AFRAID,  
NOT ME.



RIGHT NOW,  
YOU AND I ARE  
GOING TO HAVE A TALK.  
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL  
ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW  
ABOUT **BLUDD**. HIS  
PLANS. HIS MOTIVES.  
EVERYTHING!

AND WHEN  
YOU'RE DONE--  
I'M GOING TO HURT  
YOU. REAL BAD.

SO MY  
ONLY QUESTION  
IS, HOW MUCH DO YOU  
WANT TO SUFFER? THE MORE  
DETAILS YOU GIVE ME, THE  
LESS PAIN. YOU CHOOSE. AND  
IN ALL HONESTY, I HOPE TO HELL  
YOU GET DEFIANT AND CLAM  
UP ON ME-- BECAUSE I'D LIKE  
NOTHING MORE THAN TO  
TAKE OUT **ALL MY**  
**FRUSTRATIONS**  
ON YOU!

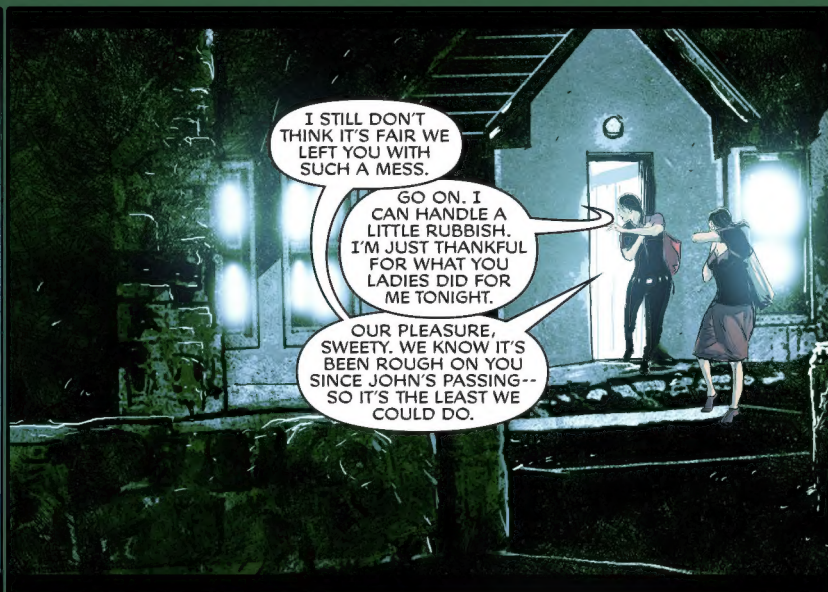


SO...  
WHAT'S IT  
GOING TO BE,  
DEMON?

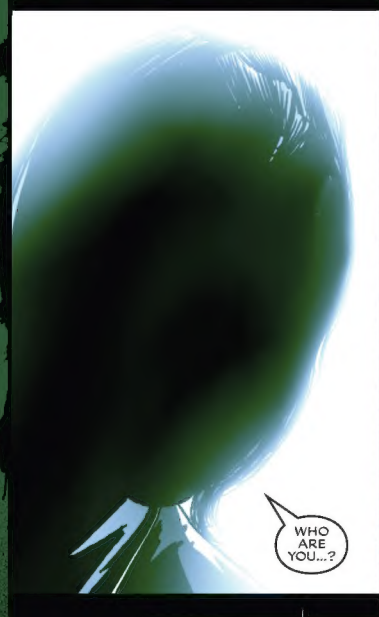
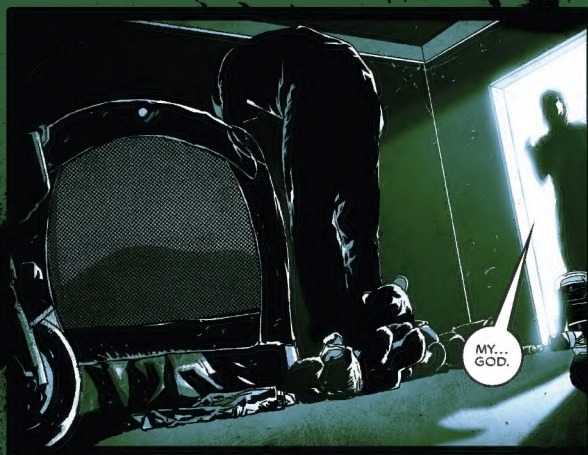




London, England.









AND WHAT  
JOHN NEVER WANTED  
TO ACKNOWLEDGE WAS  
THAT HIS SUICIDE MAY HAVE  
ENDED *HIS* OBLIGATION,  
BUT IT DIDN'T PREVENT HIM  
FROM PASSING MY HIDDEN  
TREASURE ALONG TO  
SOMEONE ELSE.

ISN'T  
THAT RIGHT,  
LITTLE  
JENNIE?

next issue: **The BETRAYAL**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE